Elder and Vulnerable Adult Abuse Crimes

What is Elder Abuse?

Elder abuse can take many forms: Physical, sexual, emotional, financial, and neglect. These types of abuse are broadly defined as follows:

- **Physical Abuse** - Inflicting, or threatening to inflict, physical pain or injury on a vulnerable elder, or depriving them of a basic need.
- **Emotional Abuse** - Inflicting mental pain, anguish, or distress on an elder person through verbal or nonverbal acts.
- **Sexual Abuse** - Non-consensual sexual contact of any kind.
- **Financial Exploitation** - Illegal taking, misuse, or concealment of funds, property, or assets of a vulnerable elder.
- **Neglect** - Refusal or failure by those responsible to provide food, shelter, health care or protection for a vulnerable elder.
- **Abandonment** - The desertion of a vulnerable elder by anyone who has assumed the responsibility for care or custody of that person.

How do I call the Saint Paul Police Department Elder Abuse Unit?

The Saint Paul Police Department does not currently have a designated Elder Abuse Unit but is taking steps to formally create this unit in the very near future. In the mean time, cases of elder abuse are investigated by multiple units. The Family Sexual Violence Unit (FSVU) investigates cases of elder abuse involving physical, sexual, or emotional abuse as well as cases of criminal neglect. FSVU can be contacted by calling 651-266-5676. Financial Exploitation cases are investigated by the Fraud and Forgery Unit. Fraud and Forgery can be reached by calling 651-266-5734.

How do I report elder abuse?

To report a case of elder abuse occurring within the City of Saint Paul, call the Ramsey County Adult Protection Service (RCAPS) intake line at 651-266-4012. Alternatively, you may call the Saint Paul Police Department at 651-291-1111 and a squad will be dispatched to take your report. The Saint Paul Police Department and RCAPS cross report cases of elder abuse, notifying each other of cases of elder abuse.

How do I report Financial Exploitation?

In order to effectively investigate cases of financial exploitation, the Saint Paul Police Department requests a spread sheet be prepared. The main tool of financial exploitation is the checking account. The spread sheet tracks the victim's loss in a way that facilitates an effective investigation and promotes a successful prosecution. Instructions for completing this document can be obtained by clicking this link: http://www.stpaul.gov/DocumentView.asp?DID=8910

Where can I find resources for a victim of elder abuse?

ElderCare Rights Alliance provides confidential victim services and information on elder abuse prevention. They can be reached by phone at 854-7304 or 800-893-4055. You can visit their website at http://www.eldercarerights.org.

The United States Postal Carriers Union offers a free program called **Carrier Alert** which is available to seniors and people with disabilities. It is especially useful to those whose only daily contact with people is the letter carrier delivering mail. Letter carriers are trained to identify signs of distress, like the accumulation of mail, and quickly seek help at the first sign of trouble. To learn more about this program follow this link: http://www.stpaul.gov/DocumentView.asp?DID=8054

In addition, the Saint Paul Police Department has prepared a list of **resources** which may assist victims of elder abuse. You can view these resources by clicking on this link: http://www.stpaul.gov/DocumentView.asp?DID=8909

Where can I find more info about elder abuse?

For more information regarding elder abuse visit the National Center on Elder Abuse at http://www.ncea.aoa.gov/ncearoot/Main_Site/index.aspx.